



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
(717) 787 3904
FAX (717) 782 4011

Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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HARRISBURG -- Based on May 1 conditions, **Pennsylvania's** 2000 production of winter wheat is expected to be 1 percent above 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Acreage to be harvested is forecast at 195,000, 5,000 acres more than last year. Yield is forecast at 53 bushels per acre, down from 54 bushels a year ago. The resulting production of 10,335,000 bushels is compared to the 1999 production of 10,260,000 bushels.

Total 1999 tobacco production for Pennsylvania was 11,170,000 pounds. Southern Maryland, Type 32, acres harvested were 3,000 with an average yield per acre of 1,750 pounds and a production of 5,250,000 pounds. The total value of the Type 32 crop was set at \$4.2 million. Pennsylvania, Type 41, acres harvested were 3,200 with an average yield of 1,850 pounds per acre and production of 5,920,000 pounds. The total value of the Type 41 crop was \$7.7 million.

Hay stocks on Pennsylvania farms as of May 1 totaled 440,000 tons, 40 percent less than last May's level and 3 percent below the level of May 1, 1998.

U.S. winter wheat production for 2000 is forecast at 1.65 billion bushels based on crop conditions as of May 1. This is down 3 percent from 1999. Acres to be harvested is estimated at 34.7 million, down 2.5 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 47.5 bushels per acre, 0.3 less than last year's record yield.

Total 1999 U.S. tobacco production was 1.3 billion pounds, 13 percent below the 1998 production. The total value of the tobacco crop was \$2.36 billion.

All hay stocks on U.S. farms as of May 1 totaled 28.8 million tons, 16 percent above the May 1, 1999 stocks.